Donald R Parthenon
228 Tallwood Drive
Vernon CT 06066
3/8/2010

Dear Conservation Commission Members,

I would like to support Senate Bill 207 which would raise fishing and hunting license fees by 20% instead of doubling them as proposed by Governor Rell. For fishermen this would amount to a $4 increase instead of a $20 increase. Understanding the fiscal crisis facing the State of Connecticut most sportsmen will tolerate a small increase in their licenses but not the $20 increase proposed by Governor Rell. It is a double whammy for a fisherman entering the state park to fish. First they pay double to buy the fishing license and then they pay double to enter the state park since state park fees have also doubled. What ever happened to former DEP Commissioner Gina McCarthys slogan Don't Leave a Child Inside? I guess without parents affording to take them fishing at state parks kids will continue to get fat staying inside and watching more TV and playing more video games.

The doubling of the fishing and hunting license fees will have a negative impact on Connecticuts economy when fewer hunters and fishermen go to bait, tackle and gun shops. Cabelas brought in $194,887 in property taxes to East Hartford last year. The closing of Cabelas would increase unemployment as well as decrease East Hartford's tax revenues.

Please support this proposal instead of balancing the state budget on the backs of fishermen and hunters.

Thank you
Don Parthenon

Lure Of Fishing Catches Rebel

I would just like to thank our governor and elected officials once again. Not only did they impose a frivolous extra fee this year on saltwater fishing, but now they doubled all the fishing and hunting licenses. Fishermen who are Connecticut residents now have to pay $40 annually to fish. This is ridiculous!

The hunters have it even worse. I would like to personally applaud our officials for continually taxing the people of this state and figuring out more and more creative ways to empty our pockets. As a friend of mine said, "Why would anyone want to participate in our Staycations? It's cheaper to spend my money in Massachusetts."

I will unfortunately be a criminal as of next year because I refuse to pay double to fish in the Connecticut River. I will not be purchasing the new, more expensive license, but I will be fishing. Hopefully the state hasn't cut all the state Department of Environmental Protection jobs yet; they can spend the new money looking for me. I won't be the only one.

Anthony Barone, Enfield

Include an address and daytime phone number